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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

(for the period 1 April-29 September 1994)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991, the Security Council established a demilitarized zone (DMZ) along the Iraq-Kuwait boundary and decided to set up an observer unit with the following tasks: to monitor the Khawr Abd Allah waterway and the DMZ; to deter violations of the boundary through its presence in and surveillance of the DMZ; and to observe any potentially hostile action mounted from the territory of one State into the other. By its resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, the Security Council approved the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the above provisions (S/22454). And by its resolution 806 (1993), the Council expanded the tasks of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Observation Mission (UNIKOM) to include the capacity to take physical action to prevent or redress small-scale violations of the DMZ or the boundary.

2. By its resolution 689 (1991), the Security Council noted that UNIKOM could be terminated only by a decision of the Council, and decided to review the question of the termination or continuation as well as the modalities of the Mission every six months. The purpose of the present report is to provide the Security Council, prior to its forthcoming review, with an overview of the activities of UNIKOM during the last six months.

II. ORGANIZATION

3. Major-General Krishna N. S. Thapa (Nepal) continued as Force Commander. The composition and strength of the Mission is detailed below:

Military observers

Argentina	6	Malaysia	7
Austria	7	Nigeria	6
Bangladesh	9	Pakistan	7
Canada	5	Poland	6
China	15	Romania	7
Denmark	6	Russian Federation	15
Fiji	7	Senegal	6
Finland	6	Singapore	7
France	15	Sweden	6
Ghana	6	Thailand	6
Greece	7	Turkey	6
Hungary	6	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	15
India	6	United States of America	15
Indonesia	7	Uruguay	6
Ireland	7	Venezuela	2
Italy	6		
Kenya	7		
		Total	245

Infantry battalion (Bangladesh)	775
Support units	
Engineers (Argentina)	50
Logistic unit (Denmark)	45
Medical unit (Austria 12/Bangladesh 16)	28
Total	123
Total number of military personnel	1 143

Civilian personnel

International staff	81
Locally recruited staff	130
Total number of civilian personnel	211

4. In view of its commitments in other United Nations peace-keeping operations, the Government of Norway has withdrawn its military observers from UNIKOM. The Government of Austria has informed me that it will not be able to maintain its medical unit in the Mission. At my request, it has agreed to keep it there until February 1995 to allow sufficient time for obtaining a replacement.

5. In my last report (S/1994/388), I mentioned that the activities of the Argentine engineers were limited by the shortage of equipment which the Government of Kuwait had undertaken to supply. The equipment has now been delivered, provided by Kuwait as a voluntary contribution at no cost to the United Nations.

6. UNIKOM's air support comprised two small fixed-wing aircraft contributed by the Government of Switzerland at no cost to the United Nations, and three chartered helicopters. The Mission also had the use of a chartered AN-26 aircraft for the movement of personnel and equipment between Umm Qasr, Kuwait City and Baghdad. The Government of Switzerland has recently informed me that it will not be able to provide the two fixed-wing aircraft beyond the end of 1994.

7. UNIKOM's headquarters is in Umm Qasr. It maintains liaison offices in Baghdad and Kuwait City and a logistic base at Doha. The latter is currently being moved to facilities in Kuwait City, which it will share with the liaison office.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

8. For operational purposes, the DMZ remains divided into three sectors (North, Central and South), as shown in the attached map. UNIKOM's concept of operations is based on surveillance, control, investigation and liaison. Surveillance of the DMZ is based on patrol and observation bases, ground and air patrols, and observation points. Control operations include static checkpoints, random checks and maintenance of a force mobile reserve. Investigation teams are maintained at the level of both sector and UNIKOM headquarters, and continuous liaison is carried out at all levels.

9. The military observers perform UNIKOM's main patrol, observation, investigation and liaison activities. The infantry battalion is deployed in a main camp at Camp Khor, a company camp at Al-Abdaly and platoon camps in the South and Central Sectors. It performs armed patrols within the sectors and provides a mobile reserve, which is deployed as necessary in sensitive situations. The battalion also operates checkpoints at the border-crossing sites and conducts random checks in cooperation with Iraqi and Kuwaiti liaison officers. Since late May 1994, the battalion has manned the easternmost patrol and observation base (N-6) on the Iraqi side of the DMZ. It also provides security for UNIKOM personnel and installations where and when necessary.

IV. SITUATION IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

10. During the period under review, the situation in the DMZ was very calm. There was a noticeable increase in farming, oil exploration and exploitation, as well as in maintenance and construction works on both sides of the border. Increased shipping and fishing were observed in the Khawr Abd Allah.

11. The completion of the Kuwaiti border trench and earthen embankment established a physical barrier between the two sides, creating an obstacle to

unauthorized border crossing and thereby contributing to the overall quiet in the border area. Kuwait has also constructed an asphalt road along the full length of the border, parallel to the trench. This road has improved UNIKOM's mobility.

12. There were only very few and minor violations of the DMZ during the period under review, namely one overflight by a military aircraft and five violations involving weapons other than sidearms. No ground violations by military personnel or border crossings resulting in serious incidents were obser .. UNIKOM took up each violation with the party concerned for appropriate action. Iraq and Kuwait each submitted two written complaints; they were investigated.

13. A serious incident occurred on 12 August when three members of the infantry battalion patrolling the DMZ in their vehicle on the Iraqi side of the border, north of Safwan, were ambushed by an unknown and unidentified number of assailants armed with automatic weapons. One Bangladesh soldier was shot and killed. The others escaped, one with a gunshot wound to the leg and the other with minor injuries. The assailants took the vehicle, two rifles and some equipment. The Iraqi authorities expressed their deep regret at the incident, promised to do whatever they could to apprehend the attackers and stepped up their security measures in the DMZ. They later recovered the vehicle, together with another vehicle stolen earlier, both completely stripped of their contents, and returned them to UNIKOM. Following the incident, UNIKOM temporarily replaced night patrols of unarmed military observers by armed infantry patrols. The attackers have so far not been apprehended.

14. UNIKOM continued to provide support to other United Nations agencies in Iraq and Kuwait. The Mission maintained administrative supervision of the Administrative Unit in Baghdad, which provided administrative and logistic support to other United Nations agencies in Iraq. It provided movement control in respect of all United Nations aircraft operating in the area, as well as medical evacuation assistance to the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq. It provided support to the United Nations Coordinator for the Return of Property from Iraq to Kuwait; to the International Maritime Organization during its survey of the Khawr Abd Allah in June; and to a team which inspected and carried out maintenance work on the boundary markers in April/May. UNIKOM has now assumed responsibility for maintaining the boundary markers.

V. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

15. The General Assembly, by its resolution 48/242 of 5 April 1994, authorized me to enter into commitments up to the amount of $5.5 million gross ($5,312,800 net) per month for the maintenance of UNIKOM for the period from 1 May to 31 October 1994, subject to the review by the Security Council of the Mandate of the Mission. The amount is inclusive of the two-thirds share to be met through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait.

16. For the period from 1 November 1994 to 31 March 1995, the General Assembly decided, on an experimental basis, that I may enter into commitments at the same level each month for the maintenance of UNIKOM, subject to the review by the Security Council and to the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on

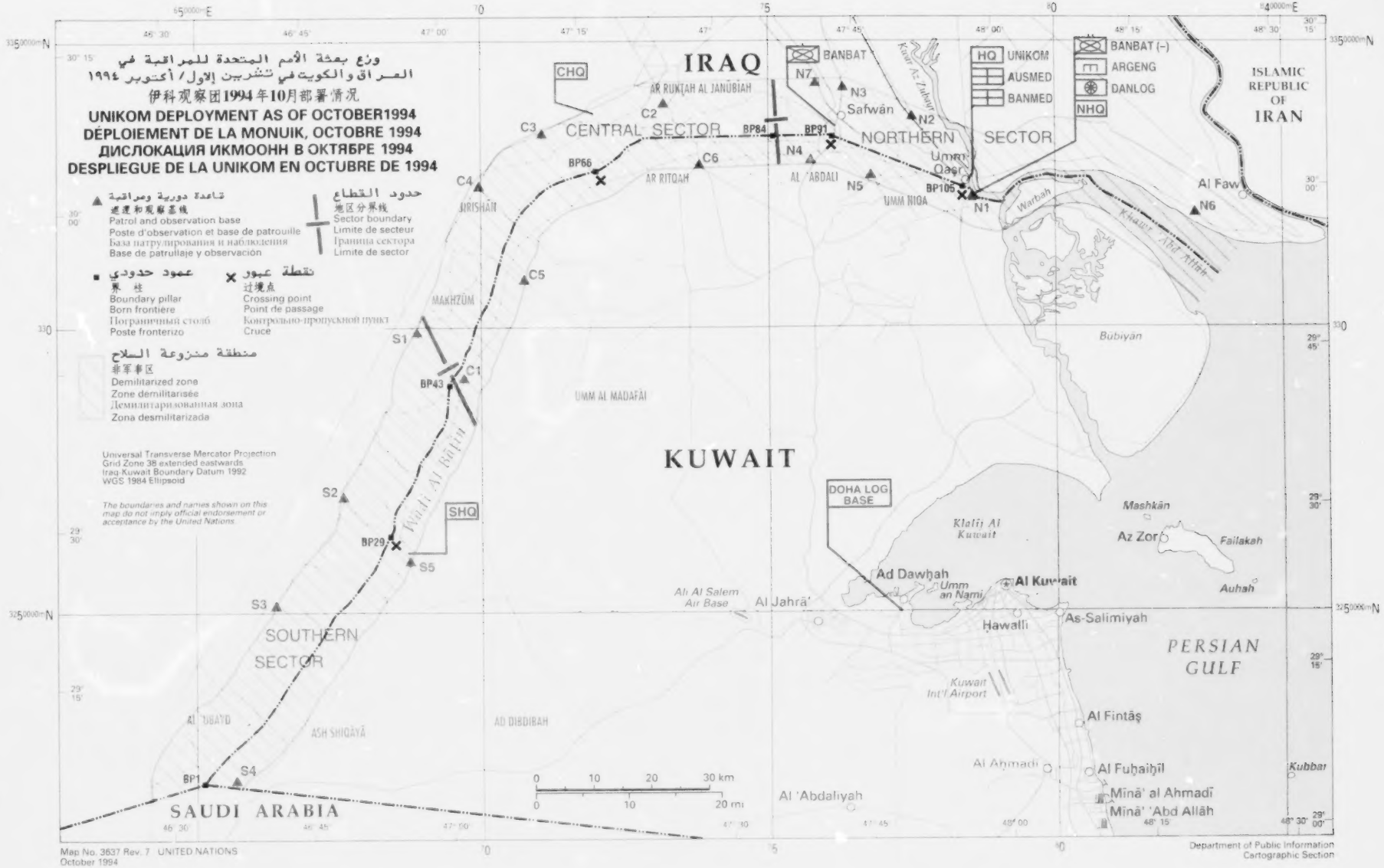
Administrative and Budgetary Questions. One third of the full amount authorized for this period is to be assessed on Member States, and two thirds is to be met through the voluntary contribution of Kuwait. Subject to the Security Council's review, I shall report to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the additional requirements for maintaining UNIKOM.

17. As at 21 September 1994, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNIKOM for the period since the inception of the Mission amounted to $27,715,131. The total unpaid assessed contributions for all peace-keeping operations amounted to $1.9 billion.

VI. OBSERVATIONS

18. UNIKOM has continued to exercise a high degree of vigilance and through its patrols and liaison activities has contributed to the calm which has prevailed along the Iraq-Kuwait border. In carrying out its functions, UNIKOM has enjoyed the effective cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities. It is my recommendation that the Mission be maintained.

19. In conclusion, I wish to pay tribute to the Force Commander and the men and women under his command for the manner in which they have carried out their task. Their discipline and bearing have been of a high order, reflecting credit on themselves, on their countries and on the United Nations.



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